

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
APPROVED Minutes of July 2, 2013, meeting  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:30.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell, Ed Hall, Shep Stearns, Kathleen Patersom, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending, Ed Wazer, Raluca Mocanu, J.C. Beale, Katrina Higgins.

2. Minutes of the June 4, 2013 meeting were approved.

**New Business**

3. *Baxter Road lease* Ed and Raluca presented their request to lease the Baxter Road field for longer than the standard 10-year period because of their proposed infrastructure improvements for vegetable production and for fruit trees. After reviewing an overview of their business plan, the committee agreed that it warrants a longer length for their lease. The exact terms of the lease are to be determined.

4. *Existing conservation easements on Town properties* J.C. and Katrina presented their concern about the conservation easement areas on their property. The restrictions prevent them from managing these areas for invasive plants, which are making it difficult to enter these areas (barberry) and are endangering the trees (bittersweet) that will be sources of food for their bee farm. The committee reviewed the Town's standard conservation easement, and they tabled their recommendation until a legal opinion is available concerning revisions of easements and the potential for setting a precedent for future revisions. The committee noted that the current easement's restrictions do not support the goals of the easement because those restrictions do not allow for necessary management, such as removal of invasive plants.

**Old Business**

5. *Mansfield Tomorrow Agricultural Strategy* Committee members reviewed a revised strategy document based on comments at the June 13 Agriculture Focus Group meeting. The committee's suggestions will be incorporated in the final document.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05. The next regular meeting is on August 6.